

## Media Release – for immediate use – 16 December 2020

### Existing Homes Alliance Scotland welcomes ambitious climate plan but awaits detail on delivery

Over a million homes in Scotland need to be upgraded to low carbon heating by 2030, according to the Scottish Government's Plan [1] for meeting its tough climate change targets which was published today. The Existing Homes Alliance Scotland [2] welcomed the ambition for the next decade but warned that the proposals risk not delivering the transformation needed quickly enough.

Lori McElroy, Chair of the Existing Homes Alliance said, "This is an ambitious plan but that's what is needed. Last week the UK Climate Change Committee said that Scotland's world leading 2030 emissions target is going to be really challenging – the messages coming from this updated plan are promising and we look forward to seeing the detail in the Heat in Buildings Strategy early in the new year".

"The plan, which includes commitments to new regulation, support and the doubling of zero emissions heat technologies year on year up to 2025, is good news for the climate and for creating and sustaining thousands of green jobs as we recover from the impacts of the global pandemic."

"We are, however, concerned that the target to ensure that all buildings are energy efficient by 2035 is not ambitious enough. We believe that, to meet climate change and fuel poverty targets, homes need to have an Energy Performance Certificate rating of at least C by 2030, and these standards must be introduced early so homeowners, landlords and businesses know what's expected of them and can make the changes needed."

"We are now entering a really exciting time where we are going to be improving over 100,000 Scottish homes on average each year – making them warmer, healthier and more affordable to live in. It's good to see a commitment to introducing standards and regulation alongside support, but details are lacking and getting that balance right will be critical in achieving the targets."

Lori McElroy added, "We welcome the plan's focus on making sure no one is left behind on the journey to net zero by boosting fuel poverty programmes – we believe that investment in these programmes needs to double from next year to meet the anticipated rise in demand."

"We also welcome the proposal to develop a large-scale public engagement campaign and the commitment to investing in innovation - our members look forward to working with the Scottish Government on these".

Lori McElroy added "This is a really positive opportunity to transform our cold and draughty homes, end fuel poverty and cut emissions on our journey to net zero - we are looking forward to more detail to ensure delivery".

**Ends**

**Notes**

[1] Scottish Government [Climate Change Plan Update](#)

[2] The [Existing Homes Alliance](#) is a coalition of 10 founding member organisations and supporters representing housing, environment, anti-poverty and consumer groups arguing for greater investment in Scotland's existing housing stock to make it fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

[3] Existing Homes Alliance [Manifesto for 2021 Scottish Parliament election](#)

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